



PETER JOSEPH

*1929

Peter Joseph is one of the finest colourists painting today. In his earlier, more geometrically constructed works, each colour, seen alone or as one of a pair, is distinguished by its rarity, its luminosity, by its almost romantic capacity to stimulate the senses and to arouse emotions. Eminently retinal, his painting, without belonging to any particular current, but sharing some affinities with minimalism and American colour-field, puts forward its own field of expansion and expression. That is to say a form of free chromatic lyricism, sadly too little appreciated during these decades of conceptualist domination. It carries, with as much delicacy as fervour, a wave of freshness and fragrance that affects eye and mind.

His most recent works (...) reinforce again this feeling of airy lightness that works like a benevolent breeze because they take off by comparison with some earlier compositions. One could say that one gains a pictorial richness, a truth, of a natural elegance that consigns all affectation to oblivion. It's a wealth that doesn't advertise itself as such, rather playing at discretion, even modesty that reveals itself by the almost ethereal subtlety of colour and materials that is more intoxicating than seductive. For the first time this English artist shows his creative process. He shows, side by side, the preparatory drawings and collages in small format and the pictorial realisation on canvas. Two worlds for the same composition, the same image. The study and the execution that sublimates it. A double rapture.

Text by Claude Lorent, translation by David Saunders

*Peter Joseph (*1929, London) lives and works in Stroud, United Kingdom. His work has been featured in numerous exhibitions worldwide, including shows in the Neues Museum Weserburg, Bremen (2007), MuHKA Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst, Antwerp (2007), Unité d'habitation Le Corbusier, Briey-en-Forêt (1998), MAMCO, Genève (1997), Musée Matisse, Nice (1995), Museum of Modern Art, Oxford (1994), Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg (1991), Städtische Kunsthalle Düsseldorf (1984) and the Royal Academy of Arts, London (1977). His work is held in public collections like the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, the Kunsthau Zurich, the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, the National Museum, Cardiff, the Museum of Modern Art, Geneva and the Tate Gallery, London*